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## How to contact your legislators:

You can dial 406-444-4800 to leave your legislator a message or find individual contact info at [www.leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/63rd/roster.asp?HouseID=0&SessionID=107](http://www.leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/63rd/roster.asp?HouseID=0&SessionID=107)

# ARNI'S ADDENDUM

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## Legislative funding tightrope

The Montana Legislature is underway and, yes, the eye-twitching season is upon us. The Montana Arts Council's budget hearing was mid-January. Here's the latest.

The major request before the Legislature is to fund \$184,000 in state general fund for arts education programs at risk because of a loss in federal funding this and last year. In addition, there is \$180,000 in Present Law Adjustments for fixed-cost increases and payroll adjustments still awaiting approval from the Legislature.

### Mapping the impact

To demonstrate the impact of programs that will be subject to funding cuts if this \$184,000 is not received – Artists-in-the-Schools and Public Value Partnerships grants – we developed a series of maps, thanks to the help of the Montana State Library's mapping division (see the sample above).

### Arts Education Partnership grant service areas:

- Shakespeare in the Schools is a program within Shakespeare in the Parks, based in Bozeman. The program assists local teachers by providing Shakespeare workshops.
- Art Mobile of Montana, a touring visual arts program, is based in Dillon. A visual artist drives the Art Mobile over 13,000 miles a year to Montana schools to help teach students more about visual arts. The artist teaches classes and presents this mobile exhibit of Montana artists' work.
- The Custer County Art and Heritage Center in Miles City has an incredible arts education program that teaches ceramics to children throughout eastern Montana. They even have a portable kiln they take on the road!

These are only three of 41 Artists-in-the-Schools and Communities grants in the last year. This arts education program reaches one out of every five children in Montana's schools each year, and four out of every five counties each year.

### Public Value Partnerships grants arts education service areas

Public Value Partnerships grants are funds that support the arts education mission of most of the major staffed arts organizations throughout the state. Here are examples of where these grantees do outreach in arts education (there are a total of 40 Public Value Partnerships grantees):

- These grants fund the arts education mission of these groups.
- Schoolchildren are bussed to these arts organizations' performances and exhibits.
- The museums have traveling trunk shows that go to schools around the state.
- The symphonies and other organizations provide outreach to area rural towns.

If you looked at a listing of our grants, it might look like our funding just goes to the major arts organizations in these cities, but the arts council's investment is actually delivered to, and

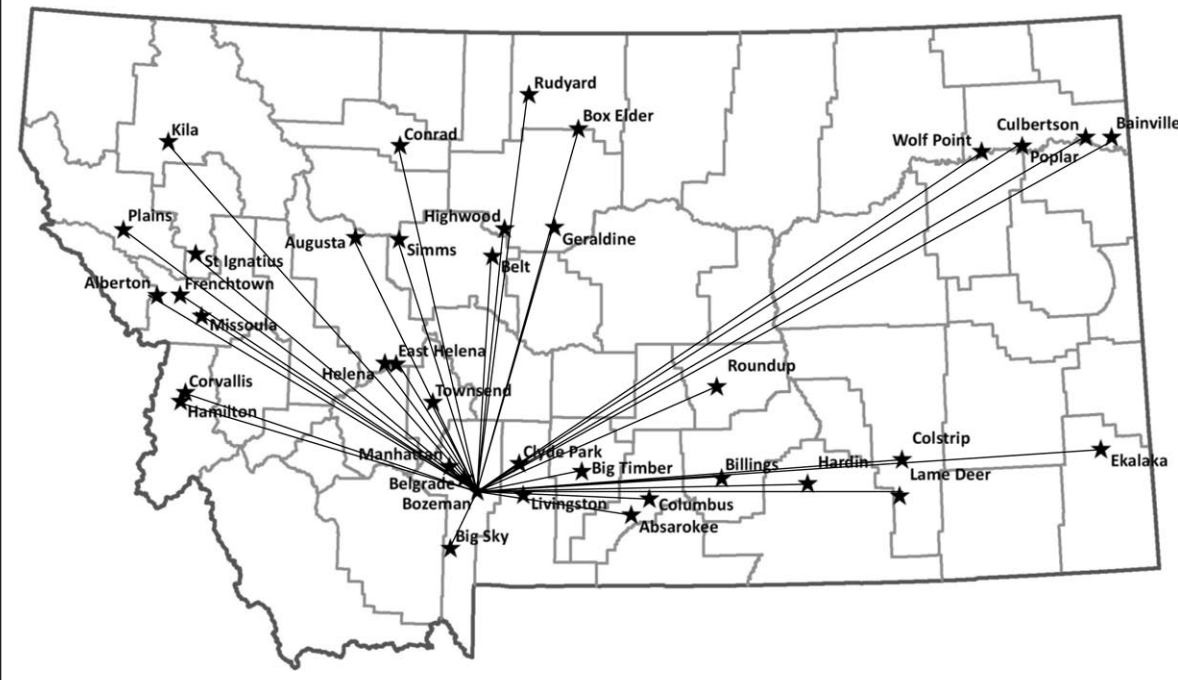
benefits, the rural communities. As you can see, by the above map, Bozeman's Shakespeare in the Schools reaches rural towns throughout the state.



### What's needed right now?

Montana Cultural Advocacy Chairman Paul Stahl and lobbyist Drew Geiger are planning the best approach for ensuring that the arts council's funding goals are met. Timing is important in terms of when key messages are delivered by constituents, so readers are asked to hang tight until you hear from them about when best to express your opinions.

## Shakespeare in the Schools (Bozeman)



How many Montana children do our 40 Public Value Partnerships grantees reach each year? Close to one-quarter million Montana children.

It is these rural towns that will be impacted if the \$184,000 in our budget request is not funded.

### Artist employment

Legislators like to hear stories about "return on investment." One of the most interesting pieces of information we included as part of our hearing has to do with the Montana Department of Labor's study this summer about artist's employment (see graph, below left). They reported that one out of every 60 people in Montana's labor market is a working artist. This chart reflects how it compares to other sectors of similar size.

### Special thanks

The arts council was aided immensely by the superb testimony from three arts educators as part of our hearing. Thanks so much to:

- Tom Mazanec, a retired choral music instructor from Helena who started his music teaching career in Terry. He is the camp director of the K-M Scout Ranch, and a member of the South Hill Brass Quintet and the Continental Divide Tuba Society.
- Renee Westlake, the fine arts supervisor for the Bozeman Public Schools, who works with grades K-12. She is a musician herself, and is also on the board of the Bozeman Symphony.
- Carol Brenden, a former member of the arts education committee on the Montana Arts Council, where she also served as a member of our Executive Committee. She is a private music teacher in Scobey.

### Our standing as of mid-February

The education subcommittee of the Legislature voted to approve \$90,000 of the \$184,000 request. However, an amendment was made to line-item \$35,000 of that \$90,000 toward the Box Elder High School's glass-blowing program, of which \$30,000 of the line-item would be earmarked to pay the propane bill for the program.

This action means that of the \$184,000 requested by the arts council for its programs, only \$55,000 is funded for that purpose thus far. Obviously, this situation needs work to achieve our goal.

As to the \$35,000 for the Box Elder School, the arts council certainly sees the value of this glass-blowing program. But earmarking the agency's budget for specific projects has never been done before, and raises concerns because of its potential to set a precedent.

### MAC video unveiled

Thanks to MAC member J.P. Gabriel of Filmlites Productions of Bozeman, the arts council has a marvelous two-minute video about the agency, its programs and its impact. Check it out at MAC's website: [art.mt.gov](http://art.mt.gov).

As a member of our governing board, J.P. wanted to spread the word about the value of, and the impact of, the agency. What better way to do so than through the media in which he excels? The video was featured at the Governor's Inaugural Ball and will remain a frequently used promotion piece for the agency.

J.P. has an enormous list of impressive credits. He was lighting director at the 2011 Primetime Emmy show in Los Angeles and the 2013 Miss America Pageant for ABC Television. He's worked on many feature films, including "Titanic," "My Sister's Keeper," "Northfork," "The Untouchables," "Far and Away" and "A River Runs Through It." He also lit the Colosseum in Rome for a live opera concert, broadcast on the national PBS program, "Great Performances."

In 2004, Gabriel began producing and lighting television commercials in Montana. Filmlites Productions grew out of that vision.

We're all indebted to J.P. for his work on this production! Its unveiling is a great way to close this edition's Addendum.

## STATE OF THE ARTS

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*State of the Arts* welcomes submissions of photographs, press releases and newsworthy information from individual artists and arts organizations.

Please check with the Montana Arts Council for reprint permission.

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